



Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2010–2011



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What’s New in 2010–2011?

- ▶ You may have two pintails in your daily bag.
- ▶ There is a three-bird daily bag limit for both the early and regular Canada goose seasons.
- ▶ The early Canada goose season has been moved back a week (Oct. 2–10).
- ▶ The Middle Zone Youth Waterfowl Season will open a week earlier (Oct. 23–24) to avoid conflicting with the youth deer and quail seasons.
- ▶ Grand Pass, Eagle Bluffs and Otter Slough conservation areas will pilot a new Quick Draw system to award hunting spots. See Page 16 for details.



Introduction to Missouri Waterfowl Hunting

Missouri waterfowl hunters now have more days and more places to hunt than ever. Hunters will be provided with a 60-day duck season for the 14th consecutive year and have ample goose-hunting opportunity with a 77-day Canada goose season and light-goose hunting that begins on Oct. 30 and ends with the close of the light-goose Conservation Order on April 30.

In the last 20 years, federal and state agencies, conservation organizations and concerned citizens have restored 25,000 acres of public wetlands and more than 100,000 acres of private wetlands—a small portion of the 87 percent of wetlands lost in Missouri. Because of these efforts, today’s waterfowlers can hunt shallow-flooded wetlands, flooded crop fields, dry crop fields, flooded timber, rivers, ponds and reservoirs.

2010–2011 Waterfowl Hunting Outlook

The preseason outlook is similar to last year, with high expectations based on a fall flight that is expected to be well above average. Last year, however, many hunters were reminded that a large duck population does not automatically translate into a great season in Missouri. Local habitat conditions, weather and migration timing all play a major role in shaping a season’s outcome.

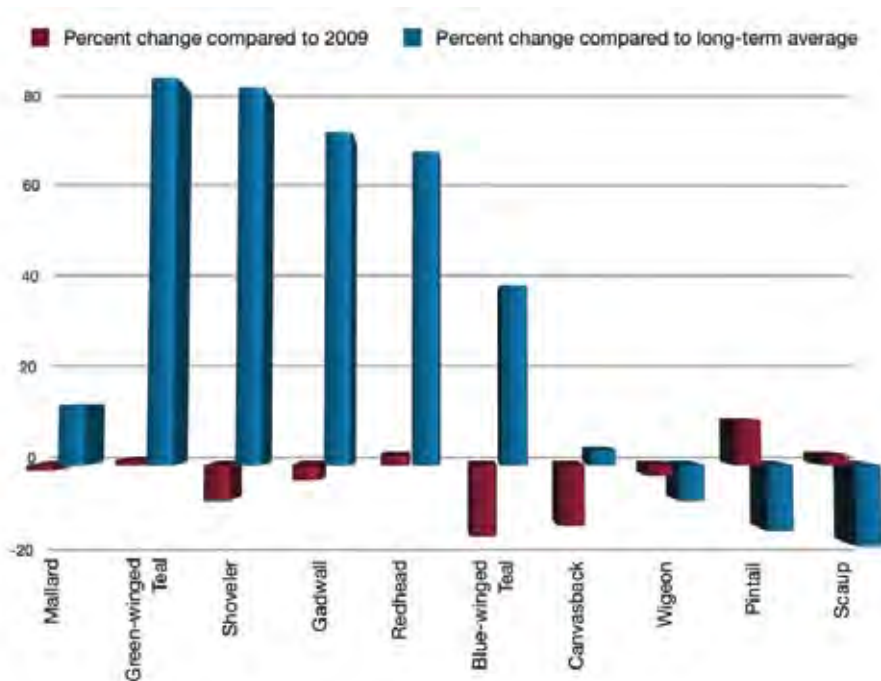
This year, extensive spring and summer flooding through much of the state along with drought in southeastern Missouri has limited crop production on most Conservation Department wetland areas. These conditions also will contribute to spotty natural food production. Timely migrations and favorable weather patterns, combined with season dates that bracket both early and late hunting preferences, should provide hunters with a variety of opportunities during the 2010–2011 waterfowl season.

Duck Status

Ducks had ample water and good nesting habitat throughout much of their breeding range. Conditions were best in the eastern Dakotas, where numbers of wetlands with water more than doubled compared to the long-term average. Wetland conditions were not as good in Prairie Canada, but they were still similar to the long-term average.

Hunters can expect good numbers of ducks going into the 2010–2011 hunting season. This year's spring estimate of 40.9 million ducks was similar to the 2009 estimate and 21 percent above the long-term average. As shown in the chart below, green-winged teal, shovelers, gadwall, redheads and blue-winged teal appear to be doing the best, as their populations ranged from 36 to 78 percent above their long-term averages. Mallard numbers were similar to last year and 12 percent above the long-term average. Although scaup and pintail populations did not decline from a year ago, their spring populations were still 16 and 13 percent below their long-term averages, respectively.

2010 Status of 10 Duck Species



ANDY RAEDEKE

Northern Pintails

Pintail Bag Limit Increases

Over the past two years, biologists from state and federal agencies have collaborated to develop a new adaptive harvest strategy for pintail. The objectives of this strategy include maintaining pintail populations at sustainable levels, avoiding a partial season for pintail within a regular season for all other ducks, and minimizing the frequency of pintail regulation changes from one year to the next. This new harvest strategy will be implemented in 2010. Although the pintail population is similar to last year, the new strategy calls for a two-bird bag limit, a one-bird addition to last year's bag limit. After years of studying pintails, biologists believe the increased bag limit will not endanger the sustainability of pintail populations. If, however, biologists find pintail numbers dropping below sustainable levels, they will modify regulations accordingly.

Adaptive Harvest Management

Duck seasons, based on regulatory alternatives developed under the federal Adaptive Harvest Management Program, provide for a 60-day season with a six-duck daily bag limit in 2010–2011 for the 14th consecutive year. Each year's regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of open seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days) and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to:

www.flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management

Rationale for Duck Season Timing

Based on hunters' desires for later seasons, Missouri moved the opening date back about a week in each zone beginning in 2004. Since then, the duck season has opened on the last Saturday in October in the North Zone, the first Saturday in November in the Middle Zone, and on Thanksgiving Day, or the Friday after in the South Zone. Maintaining opening dates associated with specific weeks of the month allows the timing of duck season to vary by seven days within a six-year period and accommodates those with earlier or later preferences over this period of time.

Middle Zone Youth Season Opens a Week Earlier

Missouri has traditionally offered youth waterfowl seasons the weekend before the regular duck season in each zone. In recent years, this timing resulted in the youth waterfowl season in the Middle Zone occurring on the same weekend as the youth seasons for deer and quail. In response to many comments about the overlap, we asked waterfowl hunters for their opinions in a 2009 survey. Only 18 percent of survey respondents from the Middle Zone preferred maintaining the status quo. Forty-seven percent preferred holding the youth waterfowl season a weekend earlier to avoid overlap with deer and quail youth seasons. The remaining 35 percent of respondents did not have a preference. Based on this information, this year's Middle Zone youth waterfowl season will run Oct. 23–24, two weeks before the regular Middle Zone duck season opens.

Duck Hunting Zones: An Opportunity for Change

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes guidelines for states to use in selecting duck hunting zones and split seasons. A split season refers to a season that is open for a period of time, closes, and then reopens for a second period of time. Beginning in 1991, the Fish and Wildlife Service allowed states to choose from the following: a statewide season with two or three splits, two zones with a split season in each, or three zones with no options for a split season. States were required to retain their chosen option for five years. Missouri selected the three-zone option initially and—based upon hunter input—retained the three-zone option through 2010.

The opportunity to change season structure and zone boundaries will be available for the 2011–2015 seasons. In addition to the alternatives made available in 1991, the Fish and Wildlife Service may allow states to offer four zones or three zones with a split season in each. Information about migration timing, hunter preferences, and habitat use and availability will be used in the 2011 zone boundary review. Hunter input will be obtained through surveys, direct correspondence and a series of public forums that will be held in spring 2011. Forum dates and locations will be announced on the Conservation Department website and in newspapers.

When Hunting From a Boat

- ▶ Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- ▶ Check the weather forecast. High wind can be dangerous.
- ▶ Don't overload the boat.
- ▶ Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- ▶ Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- ▶ If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- ▶ Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- ▶ Transport firearms with the action open, unloaded and cased.
- ▶ At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.

If your boat swamps or capsizes

- ▶ Stay with the boat, and use distress signals.
- ▶ To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.
- ▶ Place an oar under your knees and another behind your back.
- ▶ If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. Although less than 2 inches long, these exotics:



- **DISRUPT** native aquatic animals and communities
- **CLOG** the cooling systems of boat motors causing them to overheat
- **PLUG** intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants
- **RUIN** beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses
- **SPREAD** quickly—a single female can produce 1 million eggs a year

To help stop this invasive mussel: Inspect, Drain, Rinse, Dry!

- **INSPECT** your boat for mussels after each use, remove and trash mussels and water weeds before leaving any body of water.
- **DRAIN** all water from and disinfect your boat, bait buckets and equipment before leaving any body of water.
- **RINSE** in hot water your boat's hull, drive unit, livewell and pump, bilge, trailer, bait bucket, engine cooling system and all other parts and accessories that get wet.
- **DRY** your boat, motor and trailer thoroughly for 5 days before launching it in a different body of water.

Report sightings to Invasive Species Coordinator, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or call 573/522-4115, ext. 3371. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.

Missouri's Migrant and Resident Canada Geese

Canada geese found in Missouri during fall and winter come from several distinct populations.

Giant Canada geese nest in Missouri and places farther north. They are the largest subspecies of Canada goose.

Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada geese nest along the Hudson Bay coast in northern Manitoba. EPP geese almost exclusively migrate through and winter in Manitoba, Minnesota and Missouri. As a result, the status of EPP geese plays a key role in forming Missouri's goose-hunting regulations.

Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) Canada geese nest just to the east of EPP geese along the Hudson Bay coast. MVP geese predominantly migrate through and winter in states just to the east of Missouri, but occasionally winter here. EPP and MVP geese are a little smaller than giant Canada geese.

Tallgrass Prairie Population (TGPP) Canada geese nest in the arctic. Only a small portion of these geese show up in Missouri each fall. They are about the size of a snow goose.

Hunters Benefit From Changes in Canada Goose Management

Over the past four years, Missouri goose hunters have benefitted from a combination of liberal Canada goose regulations and favorable weather. During this period, 20 percent more hunters hunted 23 percent more days and harvested 55 percent more geese, on average, than in the previous four years.

Four years ago, state and federal agencies responsible for managing EPP Canada geese agreed to take an adaptive approach to see if the population could sustain additional harvest. After four years, the EPP Canada goose breeding population is still near an all-time high of 172,600 geese. As a result, management agencies updated the EPP harvest to include the option for Missouri and Minnesota to offer up to 85 days of hunting during the regular Canada goose season and a three-bird daily bag limit. This framework is based only on the status of EPP geese, and individual states have the ability to implement more restrictive regulations to better manage their resident Canada goose populations.



Status of Missouri's Resident Canada Geese

Given the high visibility of resident Canada geese, many hunters may be surprised to learn that Missouri's goose population is small compared to populations in many other states. Minnesota's spring 2010 population estimate of 311,000 resident geese was nearly seven times more than Missouri's estimate of 45,000. Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that Missouri's population may now be declining. Population estimates in the Show-Me State have declined two years in a row, the first time this has occurred since the Department began surveying resident Canada geese in 1993. Biologists in urban areas are reporting fewer complaints about Canada geese. Although a precise population estimate is confounded by several factors, this information suggests the need for careful management of resident Canada geese. While too many Canada geese can cause problems in localized areas, too few geese can lead to poor hunting and fewer opportunities for enjoyment throughout the year.

Rationale for Missouri's Canada Goose Season

Canada goose hunting regulations continue to evolve to keep pace with the changing status of resident and migrant Canada geese. In previous years, Missouri established Canada goose seasons to curtail the growth of resident populations without adversely affecting migrant EPP geese. It now appears that migrant goose populations can support more hunting, but Missouri's resident population no longer needs to be targeted to control numbers.

To provide more opportunity to harvest migrant Canada geese, Missouri will increase the daily bag limit from two to three Canada geese during the regular season. The abundant numbers of migrant Canada geese present during the regular season should help minimize the impacts of this change on resident Canada geese. Although the federal framework—based on EPP Canada geese—allows Missouri to offer an 85-day season that must end by Jan. 31, Missouri will maintain a season length similar to that in previous years. Adding days would only increase harvest of resident Canada geese, which would be undesirable given their current status.

This year, the early Canada goose season will open a week later, beginning on Saturday, Oct. 2, and closing Sunday, Oct. 10. The change will provide an opportunity to hunt when temperatures are a little cooler. Also, more crops should be harvested by this time, creating additional areas for hunting. As in previous years, the regular Canada goose season will open on Thanksgiving and close on Jan. 31.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess and transport ducks, coots and geese in Missouri, except during the Conservation Order, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) a **Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:**

- ▶ Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- ▶ Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80 from any permit vendor. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents from any permit vendor for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and Duck Stamp are required (see below).

2) **Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:**

Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over.

This permit is available for \$6 from any permit vendor. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of:**

Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over.

To be valid, the federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) must be signed in ink across the face. The stamps are available for \$15 at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger are not required to purchase any permits to hunt ducks, coots or geese in Missouri. However, they must have in their possession a valid Hunter Education Certificate Card while hunting or be in the immediate presence of an adult age 18 or older who possesses a Missouri small game hunting permit and is hunter education certified or born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase Missouri small game hunting permits and the *Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit*:

- ▶ over the counter from any permit vendor
- ▶ by telephone anytime at (800) 392-4115²
- ▶ online anytime at www.wildlifelicenses.com/mo²

Purchase the federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved Hunter Education program and display their card before purchasing any firearms hunting permit.

²Additional \$2 fee per person applies.

Who may purchase resident permits?

- ▶ Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- ▶ Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- ▶ All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- ▶ Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting or purchasing permits.
- ▶ Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, post secondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status while hunting.
- ▶ Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit.

Permit Requirement for Light-Goose Conservation Order

During the Conservation Order, Feb. 1–April 30, residents and nonresidents age 16 and older only need a Conservation Order Permit to chase, pursue and take snow, blue and Ross's geese. This permit costs \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters with either a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit or a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit do not need to purchase a Conservation Order Permit to hunt light geese during the Conservation Order.

Hunters 15 years old and younger do not need a Conservation Order Permit, but must possess a valid hunter-education certificate card or hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult 18 years old or older who is hunter-education certified or was born before January 1, 1967.

Note: A Missouri small game hunting permit, Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and federal duck stamp are not required during the Conservation Order.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- ▶ first purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization
- ▶ then purchase a hunting permit for the season they want to hunt
- ▶ and hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education certificate card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows persons who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Ducks and Coots

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: See table on the back cover.

Limits:

Coots	15 daily and 30 in possession
Ducks: The daily bag limit of ducks is 6 and may include no more than:	
Mallards.	4, but no more than 2 females
Wood ducks	3
Hooded mergansers	2
Pintails (new limit)	2
Redheads	2
Scaup	2
Black ducks	1
Canvasbacks	1
Mottled ducks	1

The **possession limit** of ducks is 12 (twice the daily bag limit; varies by species.)

Geese

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: See table on the back cover.

Limits:

The **daily bag limits** of geese are:

Snow, blue and Ross's (all species combined)	20
Canada (new limit for regular season)	3
White-fronted.	2
Brant	1

The **possession limits** of geese are twice the daily bag limits, except there is no possession limit for snow, blue and Ross's geese.



CLIFF WHITE

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

In 2010, there are two youth-only waterfowl hunting days in each zone for ducks, geese and coots. Youth hunters must be:

- ▶ age 15 or younger
- ▶ accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who is not allowed to hunt ducks but who can participate in other open seasons.

No permits are required for youth hunters. If the youth possesses a valid hunter-education certificate card, the accompanying adult does not need a permit or hunter-ed certification. However, if the youth is not hunter-ed certified, the accompanying adult must be hunter-ed certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967, and possess a Missouri permit to hunt small game or be exempt.

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: See table on the back cover.

Limits: The daily bag limit for ducks, geese and coots is the same as during the regular waterfowl seasons. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit (varies by species), except there is no possession limit for light geese.

Harvest Survey Needs Your Response

If you receive a Migratory Bird Harvest Survey in the mail, please complete and return it even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. The information you provide is important and is considered when establishing hunting seasons each year.



Light-Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 1–April 30

A light-geese Conservation Order will be in effect for the 13th consecutive year during spring 2011. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented this Conservation Order to reduce numbers of snow (including their blue color phase) and Ross's geese because they have rapidly increased in number and are causing damage to portions of the fragile arctic tundra. The Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 1–April 30 with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. **See permit requirement on Page 11.**

Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots

Season Dates and Hunting Hours:

- ▶ Sept. 11–26 statewide with hunting hours from sunrise to sunset
- ▶ during youth and regular duck seasons (see back cover for zones and dates) with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset
- ▶ Feb. 10–March 10 statewide with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Limits: The **daily bag limit** and **possession limit** shall not exceed 3 and 6 birds, respectively, singly, or in the aggregate during the regular duck seasons (including teal and youth seasons) and extended falconry seasons.

Avian Influenza Precautions

As part of a national plan, the Conservation Department is helping monitor migratory birds for H5N1 avian influenza. This effort will include sampling hunter-harvested ducks and geese in Missouri. Waterfowl are susceptible to a number of diseases, and Department personnel regularly submit samples to the National Wildlife Health Center for diagnosis. It should be noted that the observation of dead wild birds does not necessarily indicate the arrival of the virus; bird deaths can be caused by a variety of diseases, events or environmental factors. State and federal agencies are taking steps to minimize the potential impact of the occurrence of H5N1 avian influenza should it occur within the United States.

Proper Handling of Game Birds

Practice good hygiene when handling or cleaning wild birds. Here are some specific practices recommended by the National Wildlife Health Center:

1. Do not handle or eat birds that are obviously sick or birds found dead. Contact the Conservation Department or another natural resource agency if you find sick or dead birds.
2. Keep your game birds cool, clean and dry.
3. Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning or handling birds.
4. Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water (or with an alcohol-based hand product if your hands are not visibly soiled) afterwards.
5. Clean all tools and surfaces immediately after cleaning birds; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10 percent chlorine bleach solution.
6. Cook game meat thoroughly (well done or 160 F).

Your Commitment to Conservation

Conservation Heritage license plates help you demonstrate your commitment to and passion for conservation in Missouri. For a \$25 annual donation to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, you can order the plate of your choice. The foundation will direct your donation to projects that protect our natural heritage, such as waterfowl habitat improvements. You can pay the donation and pick up a Conservation Heritage License Plate Emblem Use Authorization Form (proof of donation) at any permit vendor. For details, call 1-800-227-1488 or go to www.mochf.org.



Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 15 conservation areas, which are listed on pages 18–19. These intensively managed wetlands provide waterfowl with much-needed resources during spring and fall migration. Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from layout boats or boat blinds. Most have disabled-accessible blinds. Additional information about Missouri's managed waterfowl hunting can be found at www.mdc.mo.gov/node/9619.

The Department limits the number of hunting parties on these areas to enhance the quality of the hunt and to maintain the integrity of the resource. There are four ways to land a hunting spot on a managed waterfowl-hunting area:

- ▶ Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation, which guarantees the reservation holder a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area. Applications are accepted from Sept. 1–18. This year, hunters must apply online for reservations. The phone system has been discontinued.
- ▶ **New!** Missouri residents may use the new Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass and Otter Slough. Hunters can apply or “draw” online and know if they will get a hunting spot prior to driving to the conservation area. Quick Draw allocates 80 percent of the daily hunting spots to those who apply online; the remaining 20 percent will be allocated to “poor-line” hunters. The advantage of Quick Draw is that it allows hunters to apply for a hunting spot as little as three days in advance. A Quick Draw on Monday of each week will assign hunting slots for the following Friday through Monday. A Quick Draw on Thursday will assign slots for the following Tuesday through Thursday. Quick Draw will begin accepting applications eight days before the season opens in the North and Middle zones. To learn more, visit www.mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw.
- ▶ Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder or a successful Quick Draw applicant. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- ▶ Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl-hunting area and try their luck in the morning drawing or “poor line.”

Report Your Bands: www.reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates and distributions for a wide variety of migratory game birds.

To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at www.reportband.gov or call 1-800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.



How Managed Waterfowl Areas Divvy Up Poor-Line Spots

Walk-in hunters trying their luck in the “poor line” will use the “Every Member Draws” (EMD) procedure at seven managed waterfowl-hunting areas (see map on Page 18). At EMD areas, every person in a hunting party draws a numbered block or “pill.” The party uses its lowest number to determine its place in line to pick a hunting spot. On highly used waterfowl areas, the EMD system puts more hunters in the marsh by creating an incentive for hunters to team with family and friends instead of hunting alone.

All other conservation areas use the “One Member Draws” (OMD) procedure. At OMD areas, one member from each hunting party pulls a pill to determine the hunting party's place in line. Areas that use OMD turn fewer hunters away and would not benefit from EMD.

After the pills are drawn, the lowest number gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting spots are doled out. On some days, there may be more walk-in hunters than hunting locations, so it's possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

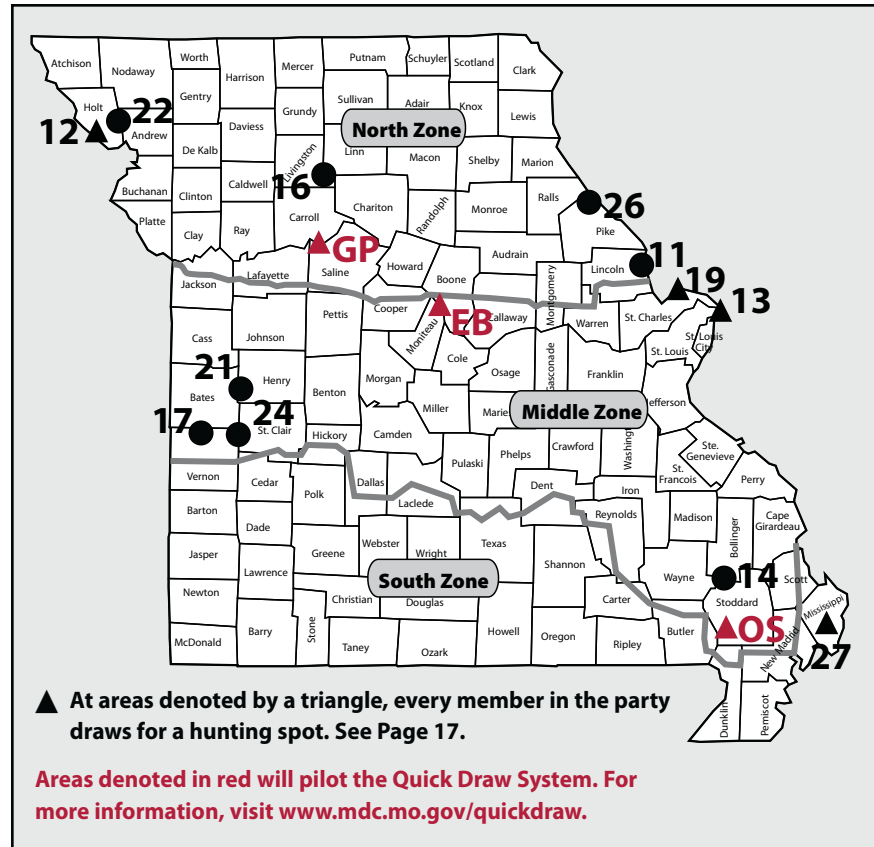
Online Hunting Reports

For hunting reports that are updated twice a week, results of waterfowl counts conducted every other week and a wealth of other information about waterfowl hunting in Missouri, go to: www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/wtrfowl.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with flyway and state waterfowl managers offers a website containing information about waterfowl status, monitoring, harvest and regulations. Go to www.flyways.us.

Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

If you are not a reservation holder or successful Quick Draw applicant, you must participate in the daily drawing or hunt with a reservation holder or successful Quick Draw applicant. For details, call the phone numbers noted after the area names or go to www.mdc.mo.gov/18556.



Zone Boundaries

North Zone: That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to the Kansas border.

Middle Zone: The remainder of Missouri not included in other zones.

South Zone: That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 34 to I-55; south on I-55 to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Mo. Hwy. 53; north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to the Kansas border.

11 B. K. Leach CA (4,307 acres; Lincoln County) 573-898-5905. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (636-441-4554); boats provided where needed; 1 p.m. closure. Drawing held at Kings Lake Tract.

12 Bob Brown CA ▲ (3,302 acres; Holt County) 660-446-2694. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.

13 Columbia Bottom CA ▲ (4,318 acres; St. Louis County) 314-877-6014. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.

14 Duck Creek CA (7,482 acres; Bollinger, Stoddard and Wayne counties) 573-222-3337. Walk-in hunting; goose pits; field hunting for geese; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for some blinds; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Renovations may restrict hunting opportunity and access; Pool 8 usually gets water late in the season.

EB Eagle Bluffs CA ▲ (4,440 acres; Boone County) 573-445-3882. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 2 ADA blinds; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.

16 Fountain Grove CA (7,154 acres; Linn and Livingston counties) 660-938-4124. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Hunting in pools H and J will be dependent upon progress of wetland renovation.

17 Four Rivers CA (13,929 acres; Vernon and Bates counties) 417-395-2341. Units 1 and 2 have 8 shooting pools. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; open all day.

GP Grand Pass CA ▲ (5,096 acres; Saline County) 660-595-2444. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.

19 Marais Temps Clair CA ▲ (918 acres; St. Charles County) 314-877-6014. Open to waterfowl hunting Friday–Monday only. Walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; 1 p.m. closure.

21 Montrose CA (3,979 acres; Henry County) 660-693-4666. Water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; open all day.

22 Nodaway Valley CA (3,833 acres; Holt and Andrew counties) 660-446-3371. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); temporary blinds only; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.

24 Schell-Osage CA (8,633 acres; Vernon and St. Clair counties) 417-432-3414. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 2 ADA blinds; field hunting for geese; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.

OS Otter Slough CA ▲ (4,866 acres; Stoddard County) 573-624-5821. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; water blinds; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.

26 Ted Shanks CA (6,705 acres; Pike County) 573-248-2530. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.

27 Ten Mile Pond CA ▲ (3,755 acres; Mississippi County) 573-649-2770. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; boat ramp; permits and stamps; open all day.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/hunting, where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- ▶ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- ▶ With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- ▶ From or by means, aid or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- ▶ From or by means, aid or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- ▶ From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased.
- ▶ By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- ▶ By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- ▶ By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- ▶ By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is or was baited to be in violation. Agricultural areas must be prepared in accordance with official recommendations to be legally hunted. It is a separate offense to place bait on or adjacent to an area that causes, induces or allows another to hunt by the aid of bait or over a baited area.

WANTON WASTE: No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

OPENING DAY OF A SEASON: No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess, have in custody or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION: Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a common carrier or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: No person may receive, possess or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER: No person shall transport by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

NONTOXIC SHOT: Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting teal statewide, or doves, rails, snipe and woodcock as designated by posting on public areas, must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of June 2010, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- bismuth-tin
- iron (steel)
- iron-tungsten
- iron-tungsten-nickel
- tungsten-bronze (two types)
- tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- tungsten-matrix
- tungsten-polymer
- tungsten-tin-iron
- tungsten-tin-bismuth
- tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
- tungsten-iron-polymer

For up-to-date information, visit www.fws.gov/hunting



JIM RATHERT

Canvasbacks

Tips for Shooting Nontoxic Shot

Of the many approved types of nontoxic shot, each has its own characteristics and benefits. Some, such as steel, are harder, pattern tighter and have more pellets in each load than lead shot. Others are more expensive, but have characteristics similar to lead. Regardless of what you choose, learn how it works with your shotgun before heading out to hunt.

Many hunters underestimate distances and shoot birds out of range. Find your effective range with nontoxic shot by practicing shooting at a target 20 yards away. Once you have that down, increase the distance to your target in small increments. This will help you learn to judge distances and how far you can effectively shoot before you go hunting.

To help hunters become more efficient and ethical harvesters of waterfowl and other game using nontoxic ammunition, the Conservation Department offers "Effective Wingshooting, the CONSEP Way." These classes were developed based on peer-reviewed scientific research by the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP). Certified instructors will teach participants how to choose the correct choke, load and shot size for different game, how to estimate shooting distances, and how to effectively lead their target. For information, go to www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/gamebird/wingshooting.htm.

Be a better hunter: Know your effective target range before the season begins!

Suggested Shot Size Selection for Waterfowl

Waterfowl species	Minimum	Typical hunting conditions	Minimum desired pattern density (hits/30" circle)
Small/medium ducks	6 steel* 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3-4 steel 4-6 bismuth 4-6 tungsten alloy	120
Large ducks	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	2-3 steel 4 bismuth 4-6 tungsten alloy	90
Small geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1-BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
Large geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB-BBB steel 1-BB bismuth 2-BB tungsten alloy	50

Close range is less than 35 yards; all shots should be limited to less than 45 yards. Velocity on all loads should be a minimum of 1,225 FPS.

***Note:** Small shot (#6) is an excellent choice for finishing wounded waterfowl at close range.

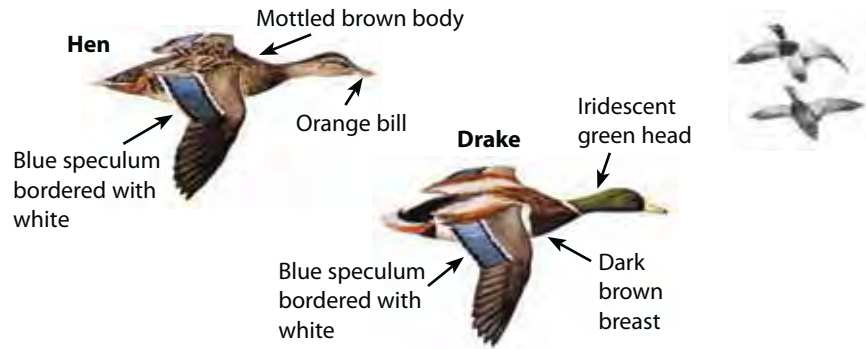
Duck Identification

For more duck identification information, visit www.flyways.us.

The daily bag limit is 6 ducks with the following species restrictions:

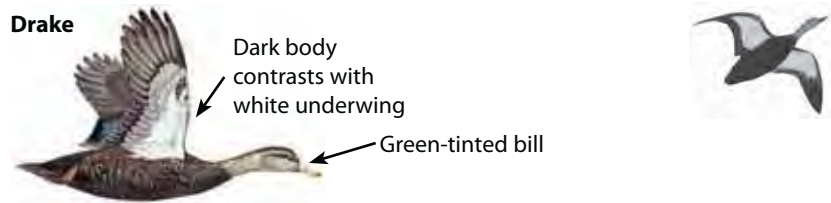
Mallard ■ 4 in the daily bag, but only 2 hens

Mallards, or “greenheads,” are Missouri’s most common duck. Hens have a loud *quack*; drakes give a lower-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



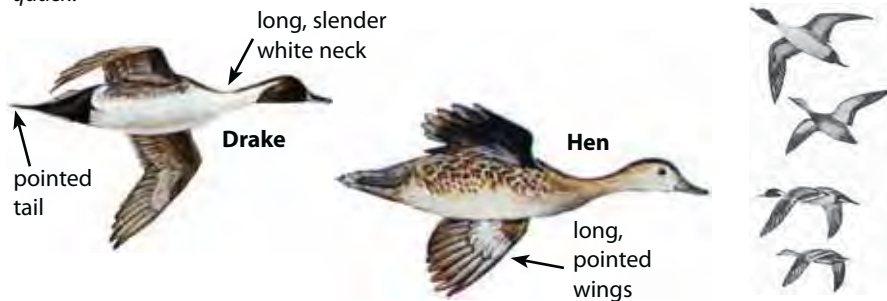
American Black Duck ■ 1 in the daily bag

Male and female black ducks are similar in size, flight, voice and coloration to mallard hens. To avoid confusion, look for the white underwing and the green-tinted bill.



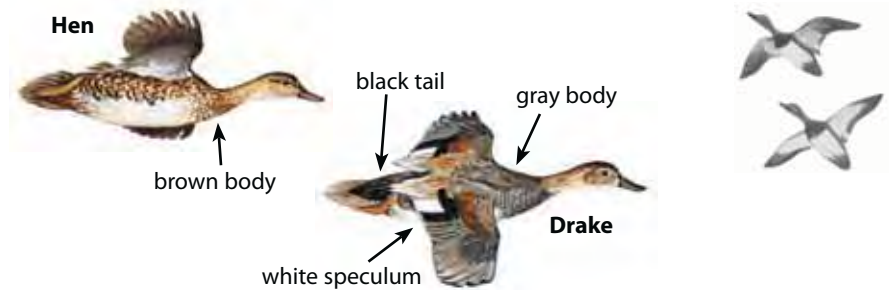
Northern Pintail ■ 2 in the daily bag

These slender ducks fly fast and often zigzag from great heights before leveling off to land. They may be seen in flocks with mallards. Drakes whistle; hens give a coarse *quack*.



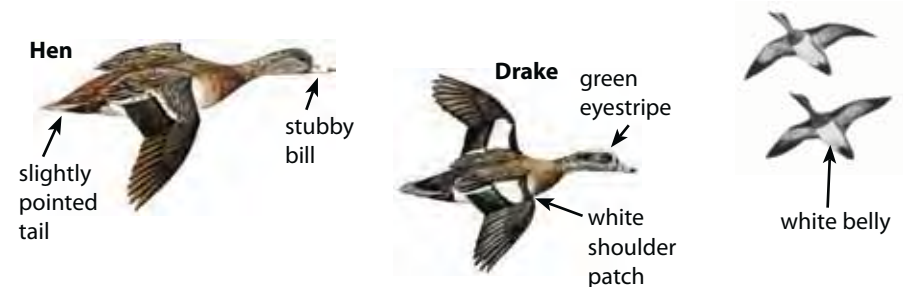
Gadwall ■ 6 in the daily bag

These early migrants fly in small, compact flocks. They are the only dabbling duck with a white speculum. Note, however, that wigeon drakes have white shoulder patches.



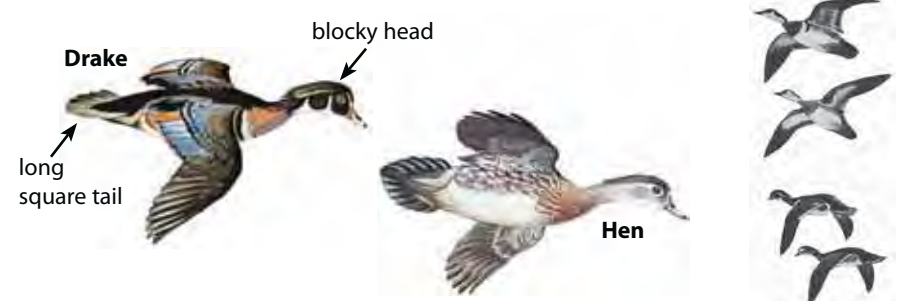
American Wigeon ■ 6 in the daily bag

The green eyestripe and white belly and shoulder patch helps identify wigeon drakes. Hens are generally brown. Both sexes have stubby bills and slightly pointed tails.



Wood Duck ■ 3 in the daily bag

The drake wood duck is Missouri’s most colorful duck. While flying, their wings make a rustling, swishing sound. Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often in flight; hens give a wailing *cr-r-ekk* when frightened.

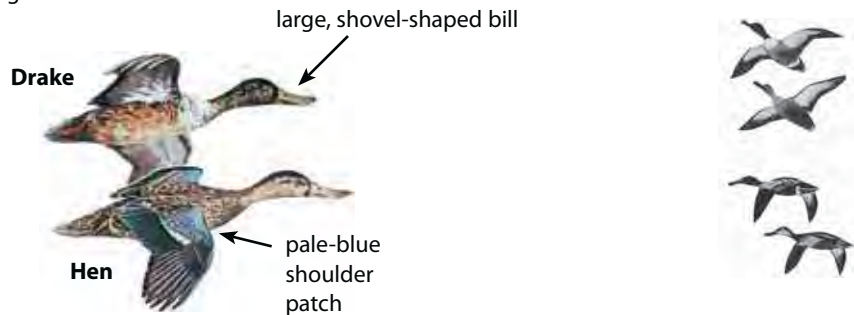


Duck Identification

Illustrations from "Ducks at a Distance: A Waterfowl Identification Guide."
Used with permission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

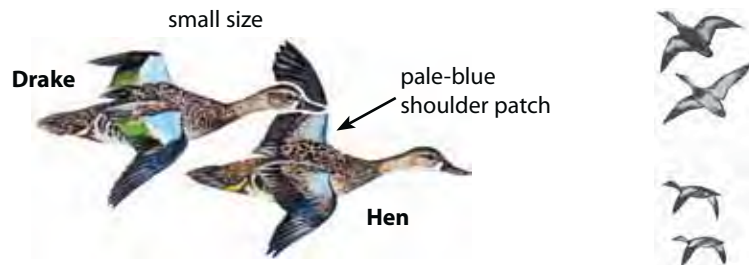
Northern Shoveler ■ 6 in the daily bag

The large spoon-shaped bill helps identify this duck. Shovelers often form mixed flocks with blue-winged teal. Both species have pale-blue shoulder patches, but shovelers are larger.



Blue-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

These swift-flying early migrants are normally far south of Missouri by the time the regular waterfowl season opens. However, a few stragglers may show up throughout the fall.



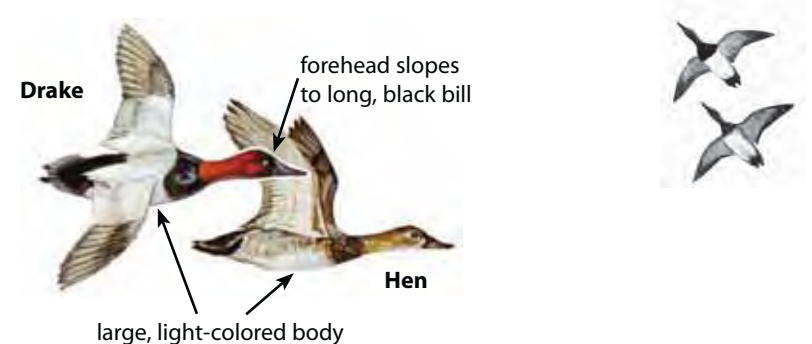
Green-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight and iridescent-green wing patches help to identify this duck.



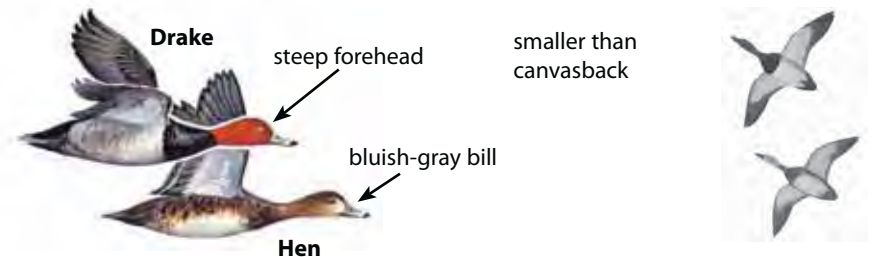
Canvasback ■ 1 in the daily bag

The swiftest of all ducks, the canvasback has a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The bill, lighter coloration and large size distinguish this duck from the similar-looking redhead.



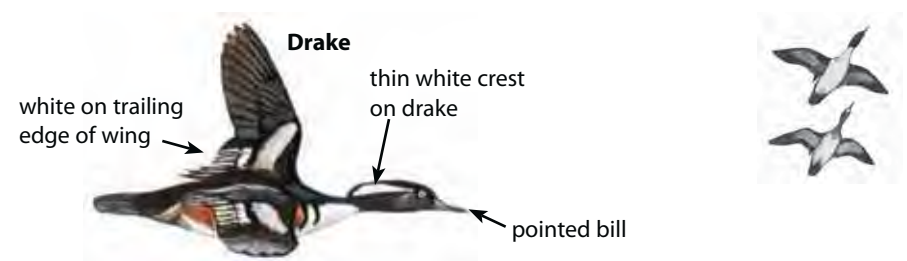
Redhead ■ 2 in the daily bag

Redheads are most often confused with canvasbacks, but in flight they also look similar to ringnecks and scaup. Note the steep forehead and short, bluish-gray bill.



Hooded Merganser ■ 2 in the daily bag

The rapid wing strokes of hooded mergansers give the impression of great speed. Mergansers are often seen in pairs or very small flocks.



Duck Identification

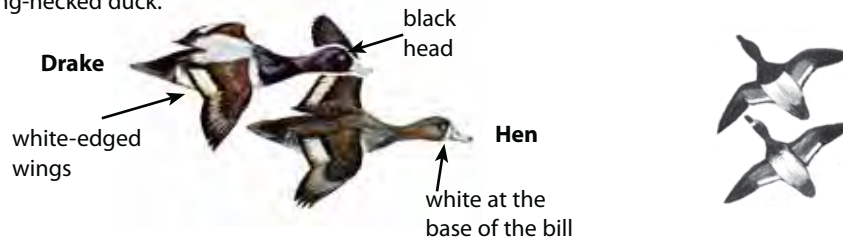
Ring-Necked Duck (Ringneck) ■ 6 in the daily bag

This diver can be easily confused with scaup and redheads. In flight, the dark wings of ringnecks are different from the white-edged wings of scaup. The bold white ring at the tip of the bill is usually conspicuous.



Greater and Lesser Scaup ■ 2 in the daily bag

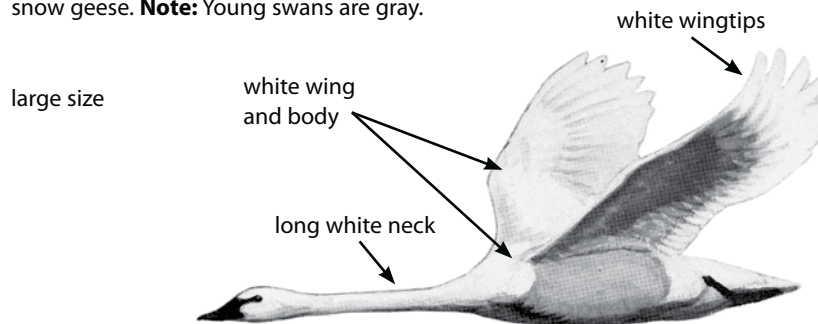
Except for the wings, greater and lesser scaup appear almost identical in the field. The white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the wing tip in greater scaup, but only halfway in the lesser. Do not confuse scaup with the similar-looking ring-necked duck.



Trumpeter Swan

All swans are protected by federal and state law and may not be shot!

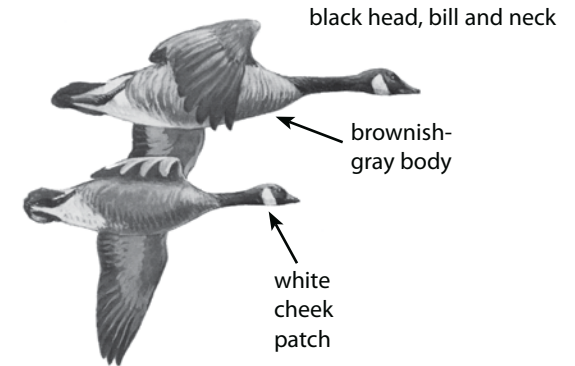
Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese. **Note:** Young swans are gray.



Goose Identification

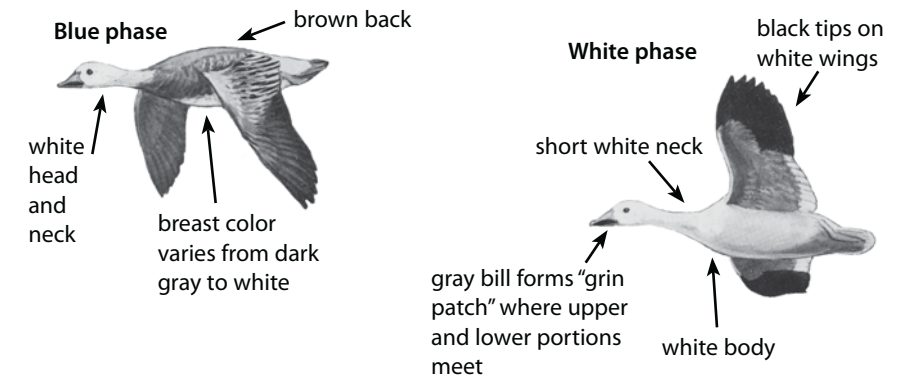
Canada Goose ■ Daily Bag Limit = 3

Canada geese are often called "honkers" because of their distinctive call. The black head and neck, white cheek patch and brownish-gray body are distinctive.



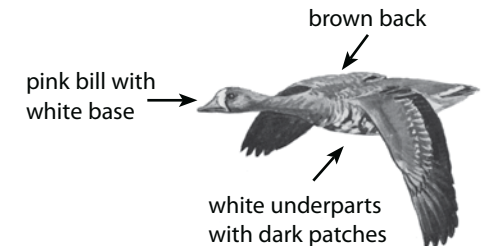
Snow Goose and Ross's Goose ■ Daily Bag Limit = 20

Snow geese have two color phases: white and blue. Ross's geese appear nearly identical to snow geese, but have a shorter bill with no "grin patch."



White-Fronted Goose ■ Daily Bag Limit = 2

White-fronted geese, or "speckle-bellies," fly in V-shaped flocks. Their call is a laugh-like series of high-pitched paired notes. **Note:** Immature white-fronted geese and immature snow geese appear similar. Immature white-fronted geese have pink bills, orange legs and black tails. Immature snow geese have gray bills, gray legs and white tails.





Serving nature and you

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The Conservation Commission
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573-751-4115
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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Contact Information



Administrative Office
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
(573) 751-4115

Central Region

1907 Hillcrest Drive
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 884-6861

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
(417) 256-7161

Kansas City Region

3424 N.W. Duncan Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 655-6250

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 290-5730

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501
(660) 785-2420

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
Springfield, MO 65803
(417) 895-6880

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
(816) 271-3100

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554

Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

Central Standard Time

DAY	OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		JAN. 2011	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	7:05	6:52	7:35	6:09	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:58
2	7:05	6:50	7:36	6:08	7:08	4:48	7:27	4:59
3	7:06	6:48	7:38	6:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00
4	7:07	6:47	7:39	6:05	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:01
5	7:08	6:45	7:40	6:04	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:02
6	7:09	6:44	7:41	6:03	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:03
7	7:10	6:42	6:42	5:02	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:04
8	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:04
9	7:12	6:39	6:44	5:01	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:05
10	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06
11	7:14	6:36	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07
12	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08
13	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:09
14	7:17	6:32	6:50	4:56	7:18	4:48	7:25	5:10
15	7:18	6:31	6:51	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:12
16	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:13
17	7:20	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:14
18	7:21	6:26	6:54	4:54	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15
19	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16
20	7:23	6:24	6:56	4:52	7:22	4:51	7:23	5:17
21	7:24	6:22	6:57	4:52	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:18
22	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:52	7:22	5:19
23	7:26	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:20
24	7:27	6:18	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:21	5:21
25	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:25	4:53	7:20	5:23
26	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24
27	7:30	6:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:25
28	7:31	6:13	7:04	4:49	7:26	4:55	7:18	5:26
29	7:32	6:12	7:05	4:48	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27
30	7:33	6:11	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:28
31	7:34	6:10			7:26	4:57	7:15	5:29

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Oct. 1 to Nov. 6 have been converted to Daylight-Savings Time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications.

2010–2011 Waterfowl Seasons

Zone	Youth Hunt	Ducks	Canada Geese and Brant	White-fronted Geese	Light Geese (snow, blue, Ross's)*
North	Oct. 23–24	Oct. 30–Dec. 28	Oct. 2–10 <i>and</i> Nov. 25–Jan. 31	Nov. 25–Jan. 31	Oct. 30–Jan. 31
Middle	Oct. 23–24	Nov. 6–Jan. 4			
South	Nov. 20–21	Nov. 25–Jan. 23			

*The **Conservation Order** for light geese will be in effect from **Feb. 1 through April 30, 2011**, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt. See Page 14 for details.

Shooting Hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Daily Bag Limits

(See Page 12 for possession limits.)

Coot Bag Limit

15 coots daily

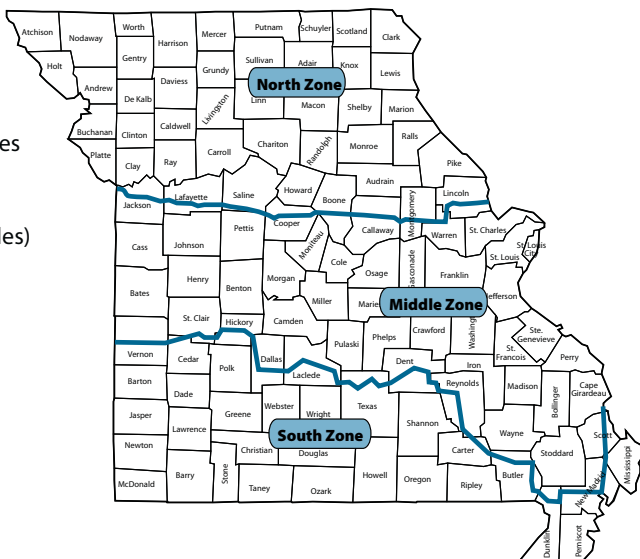
Duck Bag Limit

6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

- 4 mallards
(no more than 2 females)
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 scaup
- 2 redheads
- 2 hooded mergansers
- 2 pintail **New!**
- 1 canvasback
- 1 black duck
- 1 mottled duck

Goose Bag Limits

- 20 light geese
- 3 Canada geese
- 2 white-fronted geese
- 1 brant



**For permit information,
see pages 10–12.**